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STATINTL

Spying denied

CIA agent claims Canadian was in Russian secret police

By John Walker
Southam News Services

Eerik Heine, a naturalized Canadian who has been accused by an American Central Intelligence agent of being a Russian secret police agent, has denied all.

Mr. Heine, interviewed by telephone at his Toronto home, denied "emphatically" the charge made in a slander action in the U.S. by an admitted CIA agent, that he is or ever was a Russian agent.

He further added that despite his alleged activities, which the deputy director of the CIA appeared to confirm at the hearings in Baltimore recently, he had never been prevented from speaking at anti-Communist meetings in the United States and had never been questioned by the RCMP.

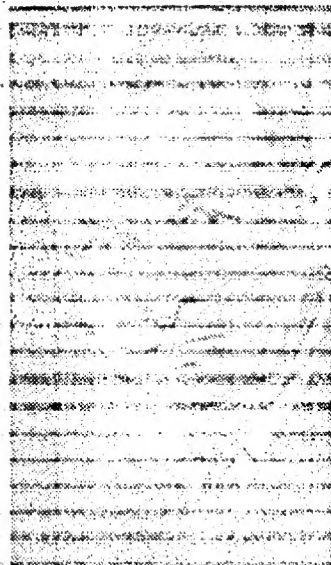
In Ottawa, RCMP officials refused to comment on the case, which came to light in a copyrighted Washington Star story Wednesday. Solicitor General Larry Pennington said he could not comment until he met with the RCMP Commissioner G. B. McClellan Thursday.

Mr. Heine said the slander suit, against another Estonian emigrant, Juri Raus, who lives in the U.S., was based on Raus' accusation at a public meeting in New York in 1963 that Heine was a Communist and an agent of the Russian KGB secret police.

"100 per cent clean"

The former Estonian professional soldier and by his own claim, post-war guerilla fighter there, said he was "100 per cent clean" of that charge. This despite Raus' admission in the slander hearing to being a CIA agent and production of an affidavit from the deputy director of CIA, Richard Helms.

Mr. Heine said that "the defendant, Juri Raus,



—CP wirephoto

Eerik Heine

was in possession of information (about Heine) furnished to him by the CIA, and when he spoke concerning the plaintiff... he was acting within the scope and course of his employment by the agency on behalf of the United States."

The slander case is adjourned while ways are sought to present more information on Raus' behalf which will not, as presiding judge Roszel C. Thomsen said last week, "expose the entire U.S. counter-intelligence apparatus."

Mr. Heine, a well-known anti-Communist in the Roxdale suburb where he lives, is a foreman at a woodwork shop and was given his Canadian naturalization papers about three years ago, which, he said was the only time the RCMP had questioned him.

He said he had been captured by the Russians when the Russian took over the Baltic states early in the last war.

He said he was in Russian prison camps three times and escaped three times, fighting then with what he called "Estonian guerrillas" against the Soviet Union.

5,000 guerrillas

Mr. Heine said the Estonian guerrilla army amounted to about 5,000 men at the end of the war, and that it kept up the fight against the Communists in Estonia until the 1950's. By 1956, when he made his final escape from a Russian prison camp, he said "there were only a handful left."

He came to Canada, he said, because his mother was then living here. He immediately got into the emigrant anti-Communist circles in Toronto, and began to make hundreds of speeches around the country and in the U.S.

"I also made a movie about the guerrillas in 1963," he said, "called the 'Creators of a Legend'" which he showed to Baltic groups "everywhere in the United States and Canada."

Mr. Heine said the CIA had never questioned him, despite the Raus allegations, he had never been refused entry, and in fact last attended a big Baltic Rally in New York City in February this year.

He admitted that his activities had aroused resentment, for some reason, and that he had been subject to so many anonymous phone calls in recent years, that he had taken out an unlisted number.

But he denied any harassment by any agents on behalf of the Russians, just as clearly as he denied that the RCMP had been interested in him.

He did say he was "very worried" by the Raus accusation since it had apparently put the Estonian Canadian community "at odds" about him.